
2002 Wis Eth Bd 08
LOBBYING LAW; IMPROPER USE OF OFFICE

The Ethics Board advises:

Neither the Ethics Code nor lobbying law appears to restrict a legislator's working as a consultant to a company that is a broker-dealer that assists institutional money managers in identifying investment opportunities

¶1 You are a member of the Legislature. You have asked whether laws administered by the Ethics Board restrict your working as a consultant to a company that is a broker-dealer that assists institutional money managers in identifying investment opportunities. Neither the Ethics Code nor lobbying law appears to restrict your working for the company.

¶2 The company does not employ a lobbyist, so the lobbying law does not apply. You have stated that the company is not hiring you because of your position as a state legislator. We have no information about this other than your statement and make no findings. However, if you are in a position to clearly and convincingly demonstrate that the company is not hiring you because of your state government position, then your entering a consulting contract with the company will not be an improper use of office.

¶3 You have said that you will not work with any of the company's customers or potential customers in Wisconsin. This is a good precaution and we appreciate your sensitivity to issues of even the appearance of any impropriety.

¶4 You note that, in addition to being a member of Wisconsin's Legislature, you also serve on the board of a special purpose district. If the company does business with the special purpose district that frequently requires action of the district board, then we recommend that you not enter into a personal business relationship with the company. If the district board's actions affecting the company are only infrequent, then you may proceed with your personal business endeavor but should not participate in any discussions or votes involving the company.